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Newsletter #8:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone!

You may have noticed that I did not send a newsletter last week. The reason is because I was too busy enjoying the beauty of Iceland. What an incredible place! Of course you aren't reading this because you want to hear my travel stories so I'll get down to the business of coins.

G&M, Künker, Vico (Spain), Aureo & Calicó (Spain), CNG E-Sale 393 and more

I participated on behalf of clients in so many auctions this past week that I have lost count! The point is that there has been numerous auctions, online and live, that have been happening in the U.S. and Europe. Both G&M & Künker, our German counterparts held successful auctions. Künker was particularly strong or it may have been more that some of their star pieces were estimated too low. The cover coin, for example, which hammered at 75,000 Euros was a rarity of which only twelve pieces are known. This beauty was estimated at a mere 10,000 Euros. Recent auctions had it selling for as much as 70,000 Euros so it probably should have been estimated a little higher from the get-go.

Vico had a wonderful selection of ex-Dattari coins that one of my clients was able to scoop up. I just started working with Aureo & Calicó as well, phone bidding on only one lot, but that proved successful and was a good experience. Of course the CNG E-Sale 393 did not disappoint. They had several beautiful pieces and for those that like numismatic books (me!), they offered the library of the wonderful collector/scholar/Seleucid coin expert and just all around charming man Arthur Houghton.

I won't waste too much space on sales that are past. There are so many great auctions out there that looking weekly at Sixbid or NumisBids to see which auctions are going on can be very fruitful for collectors. There are a lot of smaller auctions that have good material just waiting for new homes! Of course I'm happy to help you acquire these coins if you need representation.

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has a small, but interesting selection of coins from a now deceased collector, Christopher "Kit" Reed. Mr. Reed bought mid-level collector Greek coins, primarily from CNG, throughout the 1980's and 1990's. For those that want great types but don't have the money to buy at the top echelon, this may be the auction for you. You can view the coins on NumisBids (it does seem to be on Sixbid). Spink USA does not offer a dealer discount so I would charge 5% of the hammer for my services.

Roma has a massive auction this time around with many unique coins. I've sent out a few catalogs to customers that requested it. Time is running out but if you would like a catalog please let me know. I still have a few catalogs that I could send out. Roma offers a discount, so my services do not require any additional money from you.

Whitman Expo - Baltimore Coin Show (March 30-April 2)

The Baltimore coin show is coming up and while I won't have a table there I will be walking the show and meeting with customers. This show has become increasingly popular over the years and more ancient dealers are starting to attend and exhibit. I will be there on Thursday and Friday all day so if you happen to be in the area and are attending give me a call on my cell (708-655-4836) and we can meet. For those of you that have met my mother, Ellen, she will be accompanying me. I think people like to chat with her more than me!

Coin of the Week and an important note

Many of you have commented to me that it would be nice if I would offer my newest stock to my customers before I post them on VCoins or on my site. Up to this point that has been near to impossible since I really did not have much stock. As the months have flown by (now over five!) that I have been out on my own I acquired many coins. I'm going to start showing coins through my newsletter for a few days FIRST before I put it up on the web. So if you are interested in this piece just email me before it goes live.

The featured coin this week is a bold and heavily pedigreed sestertius of Galba. Finding a nice bronze (that doesn't require selling your car or one of your children) of Galba can be challenging. This beauty has the honor of being in the collections of two very notable collectors of the past, C.S. Bement and E.G. Spencer-Churchill. It was first brought to auction in a 1924 Naville sale in Lucerne, Switzerland after Bement passed away. It was presumably purchased by Spencer-Churchill. It later reappeared in auction in 1928 again in Lucerne in the Ars Classica sale. Finally it was sold to the last collector in 1938 by Spink London. This coin has some roughness to the patina, but appears to be free of tooling and smoothing. It has a magnificent portrait of the general and short-lived Roman emperor Galba.

Below is a little more information about Galba for those interested. The text was written by my good friend Bill Ward. Bill is passionate about Roman history and is in the process of getting his Masters degree in Classics at North Central College in Naperville, IL. He writes so eloquently and one can see that he has spent a great deal of time studying Rome and its history.

**Galba. June-August 68 AD. Rome mint. Æ Sestertius, 23.30g (33mm, 7h).
IMP SER GALBA AVG TRP Laureate and draped bust of Galba right /
SPQR OB CIV SER in three lines within oak-wreath.**

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June 1928, lot 1806; or Spink May 1938

Price: \$16,500

Galba, first emperor in the succession known to history as “The Year of Four Emperors” (68–69) following the suicide of the infamous and vainglorious Nero, was, by all accounts of his brief and turbulent reign, a fair-minded and wholly successful soldier. He was thought well of by virtually all members of the Julio-Claudian Dynasty, including, Augustus, Tiberius Gaius, and Claudius, and this high esteem earned him governorship of Aquitania, consul in 33, military commander of Upper Germany, proconsul of Africa in 45, and finally imperial governor of Hispania Tarraconensis. Seeking refuge from what seemed to be developing into a full-scale civil war that would pit imperial governors and commanders against one another, Galba withdrew to the interior of Spain. Shortly thereafter, however, he learned that the senate had proclaimed him emperor in the now slain Nero’s place, so he began a march with his troops across Gaul and into Italy.

At this point, all seemed to be going well for the newly-diademed emperor, but, upon reaching the city, Galba’s abilities soon began to falter: he was a soldier, not a politician. He immediately came into direct confrontation with the Praetorian Guard, which had heretofore enjoyed special treatment, pay, and largess from their immediate commanders and imperial rulers, going so far as to state that, “I choose my soldiers. I do not buy them.” Sentiments such as these rapidly alienated him from the Praetorian prefects and men themselves, who soon tired of their stingy ruler. And so, as would befall many Roman rulers, on January 15, 69, Galba was assassinated by troops of the Praetorian Guard, who brought his severed head to Otho, who would, in turn, be the next man to ascend to the purple.

References: RIC 262; BMC 117; C 297

Grade: Nice green patina with some minor porosity.

No apparent tooling or smoothing. Bold VF+

If you would like to buy this coin please email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you would like to see more coins I have to offer please visit my website at www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!

Shanna

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